

HOWNĪKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

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Citizen Potawatomi Nation

September 1999

NIEA '99: a many-faceted experience

By MICHAEL DODSON

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation was on hand and providing assistance and instruction as the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) and the

Oklahoma Council for Indian Education (OCIE) hosted a highly successful annual NIEA convention. The event was held October 17 through October 20 in downtown Oklahoma City.

With 150-plus workshops, seminars, panel discussions, and competitions, the 1999 convention offered the richness and diversity that allowed all participants to take away what they needed from the event.

More than 3,000 participants converged on Oklahoma City's Myriad Convention Center and Westin Hotel from across the nation. They represented all segments of the Indian education realm — students, teachers and counselors, education program directors, policy-makers, and beyond.

The breakout sessions were a rich resource for learning and enlightenment. The *HowNiKan* sampled three. They dealt with: Using PL- 102-477 to Increase Tribal Education Opportunities; the Future of Indian Law in the New Millennium; and, Integrating Arts into the Classroom.

Margaret Zientek, administrative assistant in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Employment & Training program, moderated the session on PL-102-477. "This allows tribal governments to co-mingle BIA, Labor Department, and Health and Human Services Department funding streams," Zientek said.

"Using '477' capabilities has allowed the Potawatomi Nation to streamline administration of these programs," according to Zientek. "We are using the savings to add to the education opportunities the tribe offers its members."

In a related session, Potawatomi E&T Director Carol Clay-Levi stressed the importance of tribes' becoming involved as regulations implementing the new workforce Investment Act (WIA) are



Margaret Zientek And Carol Clay-Levi Of The Citizen Potawatomi Nation Prepare For Conference

written. "On July 1, 2000, WIA will replace the Labor Department's Job Training Partnership Act and Summer Youth programs," Clay-Levi said.

"Tribal leaders and employment program personnel should determine their clients' needs and seek to influence the final form of the regulations," Clay-Levi said. "This our best opportunity to ensure that the regulations address Indians' and tribes' needs."

Kirk Kickingbird, Oklahoma City University law professor, gathered a panel of new and aspiring Indian lawyers for the session on Indian Law in the New Millennium. Liz Brown, vice president of the Oklahoma Indian Bar Association, spoke of the need for Indian attorneys to perform pro bono criminal defense work.

"You wouldn't believe the calls I receive from people who are in trouble, big trouble or little trouble, but, they believe, because they are Native Ameri-

Continued on page 12



Pam Smith, the cheery telephone voice of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, is in command of a Texas Longhorn. Pam and CPN Director of Public Information Michael Dodson rode Longhorns in a Shawnee charity race recently. For a firsthand account, turn to page 5.

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TRIBAL TRACTS

Walking on

Robert M. "Tat" Bixby

Robert M. "Tat" Bixby, 73, Silver Lake, Kansas, died Tuesday, August 10, 1999, at a Topeka nursing home. He had cancer.

He was born October 17, 1925, at Rossville, the son of Charles A. and Hattie Denton Bixby. He and his wife resided in Topeka until moving to Silver Lake in 1970. He was a graduate of Rossville High School.

He served in the United States Army during World War II, where he was awarded the Purple Heart. He also served in the Korean Conflict. He was employed by Goodyear Tire, Topeka, for over 33 years until retiring in February of 1984. He was also self-employed as a builder/carpenter in the Topeka area. He was a member of the Silver Lake Baptist Church and a member of the Golden Rule Masonic Lodge No. 90, A.F. & A.M. of Topeka.

He married Carol J. Rankin April 16, 1948, in Topeka. She survives. Other survivors include two daughters, Brenda A. Kelly, Topeka, and Cynthia E. Bixby, Leavenworth; one son, Dennis Bixby, Tonganoxie; one brother, Donald Bixby, Rossville; two sisters, Edna Mae Taylor and Grace Bixby, both of Topeka; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

His service was at 10 a.m. Friday, August 13, 1999 at Davidson Funeral Home, Topeka. Burial was in the Rossville Cemetery with Fort Riley Funeral Detail in charge of a military service. Memorial contributions may be made to the Silver Lake High School Athletic Fund or to Midland

Hospice, and sent in care of Davidson Funeral Home, Topeka.

Donna E. Smith

Donna E. Smith, 51, died Friday, September 3, 1999, in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Mrs. Smith was born in Cheyenne, Wyoming and attended school in Cheyenne and Amarillo, Texas. She served as a volunteer for the Cub Scouts and the Ocean Springs Soccer Organization and worked as a substitute teacher in the Ocean Springs school system. She was of the Baptist faith.

She was preceded in death by her father, Max Hedges. Survivors include her husband, William E. Smith; a son, Marc Smith of Mobile, Alabama; and her mother, Agnes L. Hedges of Ocean Springs.

The service was held Tuesday, September 7, 1999 at the Ocean Springs Chapel of Bradford-O'Keefe Funeral Homes. Burial was at the Biloxi National Cemetery. The family prefers memorials to the American Heart Association, P.O. Box 6358, Gulfport, MS 39506.

Edna M. DeShields

Edna M. DeShields, 83, of Stockton died Thursday, September 2, 1999 in a hospital.

Edna M. DeShields was born in Oklahoma in a covered wagon while moving from one job to the other, one of eight children (she had four sisters and 3 brothers). She was the mother of two children, and one stillborn child. She worked very hard all her life, even as a child. She was a descendant of the Willamette family.

She had lived in Stockton for 70 years. Mrs. DeShields was a cook for more than eight years with Fibreboard Products. She was a member of Full Gospel Mission Church.

Survivors are daughter Renamae Lively of Stockton; siblings Frank Cargill of French Camp, California, Alta Sinor of Oklahoma, Lenora Williams of Oildale, California and Pauline Gullans, James D. Cargill and Ileen Myers, all of Stockton, California; three grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday, September 7, 1999 at Wallace Funeral Home. Committal was held at Park View Cemetery, French Camp, California.

"She was very wise even at the age of 83," said her daughter Renamae Lively. "She always gave sound advice and tried to never offend anyone. She is greatly loved and missed by her family. I love you, Momma."

Shirley Jean Jones

Shirley Jean Jones, a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and a resident of Cave Creek, Arizona, walked on on September 16, 1999.

Mrs. Jones was born on August 23, 1933, the second child of Jimmy and Elizabeth Barshaw Boyd. She is survived by her sister, Madge Stoll, of Prescott Valley, her

son, Larry Watson of Los Angeles, and four grandchildren, Michelle and Scott Watson of Phoenix and Chris and Matthew Watson of Portland, Oregon.

May her loving heart find peace.

William C. McGlothlin, Jr.

W.C. McGlothlin, Jr., past Chairman of the Board, Intel Security, Inc., was born in Corsicana, Texas, in 1923. The son of an early petroleum geologist and independent operator, he was active in Boy Scouts, as a senior Patrol Leader and a District Nominee for the 1936 National Jamboree.

McGlothlin graduated from high school at Kemper Military School, Boonville, Missouri in 1940 and attended one year of Junior College. He was a cadet officer and undefeated middleweight boxer, football quarterback, and member of three honor societies.

After completing Reserve Officers Training Camp in 1941 at Ft. Leavenworth at the age of 17 years, he entered the U.S. Military Academy at West Point where he was a cadet officer and captain of the boxing team (Intercollegiate Champions in 1944).

He was commissioned in the U.S. Air Corps as a Second Lieutenant. At the age of 20, Mr. McGlothlin completed B-24 training and became an instructor pilot. In 1945, he completed B-29 training and was en route to the Mariana Islands on V-J Day.

Subsequently, he was assigned to the Typhoon Chasers Squadron at Guam, Mariana Islands as the training officer and squadron inspector; as additional duty, he was the Base Prosecutor. In 1949, he was assigned as the Tactical Inspector for the HQ Air Weather Service World Wide Reconnaissance Program and served as HQ MATS Prosecutor.

Promoted to Captain in 1950, McGlothlin became the aide to Gen. Laurence S. Kuter, the Commander, Military Transport Service. In 1951, he moved to HQ USAF as Executive Officer to General Kuter, and was promoted to Major in 1952.

In 1953, he volunteered for duty in Korea where he was Commander of the 37th Bomb Squad. In 1955, he became the first Director of Physical Education at the newly formed U.S. Air Force Academy, served as a member of the Academy Board, and was promoted to Lt. Colonel in 1956.

After graduation from the Armed Forces Staff College in 1958, he became the Director of the Secretariat for DINC PACAF, General Kuter. Gen. McGlothlin also served under General Rosy O'Donnell. In 1961, he was assigned as

Administrative Secretary, Joint Chiefs of Staff. In 1963, promoted to Colonel, he became a Project Officer for the JCS World Wide Military Command Control System.

In 1965, McGlothlin graduated from the National War College and was assigned as Vice Commander, 12th Tactical Fighter Wing, at Cam Rahn Bay, Viet Nam, where he organized the top-rated base security and safety program.

Returning to the U.S., he became the Deputy Commander at Reese AFB, Texas, then Commander at Webb AFB, Texas. McGlothlin followed that service with a stint as Commander at Randolph AFB, Texas.

Promoted to Brigadier General in 1970, he assumed command of the USAF Recruiting Service to initiate the "Volunteer Air Force."

In 1972, he was retired with a physical disability as Vice Commander Lackland Military Training Center, San Antonio, Texas. Entering Law School in 1973, he graduated from the Washington College of Law, American University in 1976; he passed the Virginia Bar in 1976 and the Texas Bar in 1977. He then opened a firm in San Antonio, specializing in Oil and Gas Law, as well as general practice including Criminal Law.

General McGlothlin was a member of the Association of Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy, and the National War College, the Daedalians, the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Texas Bar Association, and American Bar Association.

Gen. McGlothlin's hobbies, limited by his age and injuries, were sports, fishing, and hunting. He had a second-degree black belt from the Kodokan Judo Institute, Tokyo, Japan and is founder and past president of the Pacific Air Forces Judo Association. He was a rated command pilot with more than 7,000 flying hours in various aircraft from transport to fighters. He was active in the Republican Party.

Gen. McGlothlin earned the following awards and decorations: Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with Oak Leaf Cluster, American Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Service Star, Korean Service Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal with 3 Bronze Service Stars, Air Force Longevity Service Award with Silver Oak Leaf Cluster, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, United Nations Service Medal, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign.

Gen. McGlothlin is survived by his wife Akemi T. Kobayashi, three children, Chris, Charlie, and Will, and six grandchildren.

A funeral service for Gen. McGlothlin was held at the Cadet Chapel at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado on August 7, 1998.



HOW-NI-KAN PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

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Descendants Of Mary Bourbonnais Pose For A Family Photo



Mary Bourbonnais

Mary Bourbonnais honored by county historical society

By GLORIA TROTTER

A host of family and friends gathered in Tecumseh, Oklahoma, Sept. 23 to help the Historical Society of Pottawatomie County honor Mary Ann Bourbonnais, a pioneer Potawatomi settler in Oklahoma.

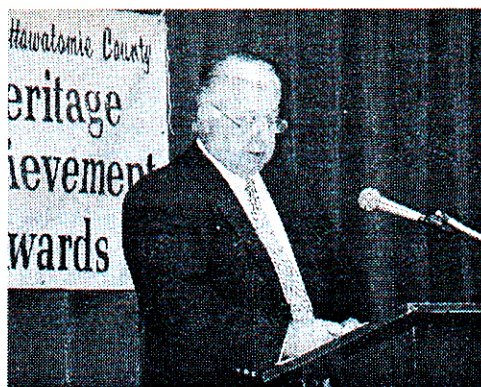
Bourbonnais was one of four women receiving Achievement Awards, two of them living and two, including Bourbonnais, posthumously.

Although Bourbonnais has been dead for many years, she was well represented at the banquet. About 20 family members were present to hear Citizen Potawatomi Nation chairman John A. "Rocky" Barrett relate her pioneering contributions to both the Native American and white communities in the late 1800s. In 1873, she helped organize the first school for Potawatomi children, later aided by the Friends Mission Church. She was Oklahoma's first Sunday School superintendent, filling that role until 1900.

The Bourbonnais cabin, the site of that school, is now located on Potawatomi property on the east side of Gordon Cooper Drive but was originally in a cedar grove to the west, where the Mission Hill Memorial Hospital parking lot is now, Barrett said.

Also receiving Achievement Awards were Etta Ray Beard, Nancy Bodard, and Juanita Johnson.

Bodard was honored for her many areas of public service, including the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary and Boys and Girls Club Council, the YMCA, United Way, South Central



Chairman John A. "Rocky" Barrett Told The Group About Bourbonnais' Pioneering Contributions

Sheltered Workshop and March of Dimes. Among her many honors are the 1998 Gordon Richards Award from the Shawnee Chamber of Commerce and the Kiwanis Citizen of the Year in 1983. She and her late husband Don donated the funds for the Shawnee Public Library as well as property for a new Shawnee Middle School.

Juanita Johnson, a Tecumseh resident who is with the Oklahoma Baptist University School of Nursing, was honored for "serving as a role model for other young women." Born in Clearview, she attended OBU and continued her education throughout her professional life, attaining a doctorate last year from the University of Oklahoma, where she was named Outstanding Black Graduate Student. She has served as a delegate to a public forum on the justice system held by the Ameri-



Bourbonnais Grandchildren Dorothy Bryan, Beeville, Texas; Ozetta Stringer, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Carlisle Jenks, Tecumseh, Oklahoma; Mary Lou Post, Shawnee, Oklahoma

can Bar Association and was a volunteer along with her students at St. Anthony's in the wake of the Murrah Federal Building bombing.

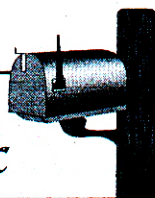
Johnson, who said she "went hungry as a child and at OBU," recounted help she received from others during her life and thanked God for her success.

Although no family members were present to accept Etta Ray Beard's award, Santa Fe Depot museum curator Lynn Wiley did the honors, saying that "When I grow up, I want to be just like her." Etta Ray was living in Oklahoma City when she and her fiancée Henry Beard decided to make the 1891 Oklahoma land run. Etta ended up staking her claim alone, building her first house herself with the help of her father. That cabin still stands, now located at the Santa Fe Depot. Etta's claim was eventually divided into the town lots that

became Shawnee. She and her husband were active in civic and business affairs, and she was the first postmaster. Also an accomplished painter, some of work hangs in the museum.

Laquita Hackett of Shawnee was presented with the Florence Drake Award given annually to someone who has "contributed to the preservation of county history." Hackett helped compile the Pottawatomie County History Book published in 1987 and was the instigator of the "Preserving Our Heritage" articles in The Shawnee News-Star. She is also involved in the Pottawatomie County Genealogy Club and other activities. In accepting the award, she noted that she first became interested in historical work "when my son had to do a paper on three generations of his family."

From Our Mailbox



Dear Rocky and Business Committee,

We are writing to inform all of you that we had a wonderful time at the Potawatomi Festival. We did enjoy ourselves but this year it was even better. We loved everything but the things that stand out in memory are: the Family tents with the cooling systems, maps and enrollment books; the Hand Games were great fun (Especially since we won!); and, the free food, ice cream, water and give away items.

We think the dancing lessons and culture classes were a very good idea. Our nephews and nieces enjoyed getting out of the heat at the bowling lanes.

Meeting cousins we had never met before — we believe this would not have happened if the big intertribal pow wow had taken place. There would have been too many people.

The tour of Sacred Heart — attending mass in the very same place our ancestors attended was very spiritual and moving.

All the children loved all the activities that were provided. There were so many activities and just not enough time to do everything. Our family danced more this time because there was room — and, more than just contest. We were delighted to see the dances for the different families.

We also want to thank you all for honoring Carmelita by asking her to be Head Lady Dancer of the first Citizen Potawatomi Festival, and allowing her to have a giveaway. We realize that this was a time-consuming event.

Sincerely yours,

**Carmelita Wamego Skeeter
Vivian Wamego Murphy
Jeannie Wamego Van Veen**

Dear Rocky and all CPN employees and volunteers,

It's hard to believe I was in Shawnee this time just a week ago enjoying the wonderful festivities. I sincerely want to thank everyone for all the hospitality shown.

When I locked my keys in my car, I was so embarrassed. Fortunately, I was parked at the administration building. An employee at the reception desk (unfortunately I didn't get her name) called the Shawnee police department for me and, after a good deal of time going through the "red tape," the fire department came out and unlocked my car door. A special thanks to this employee who helped me with this situation.

This year was just my second time coming to Shawnee. I find myself counting the days until the next event and wishing I lived closer. When I return home after the festivities, I feel renewed in mind, body and spirit.

Thanks so much, again, to all who make such gatherings possible. It is you who show the spirit of true giving and I am always deeply touched.

Sincerely Yours,

**Linda Nelson
Juneau Family**

To all who helped put the festival together,

You did a wonderful job. My Mother and Aunt attended with me and were totally impressed with the events and the overall atmosphere of the festival.

I had an opportunity to attend the intertribal last year, which was nice. But, the festival was so much better. Hopefully we will be able to have this again.

I left feeling as though I was definitely missing something by living so far away. This is not the first time I have wished I lived closer to be able to be more a part of things. The choices I have made in life have taken me a long way from the tribe.

This makes the time and energy those who are there put into the events greatly appreciated and valued. Without them, there would be no way for those like me to have that connection.

I am enough of an idealist to hope one day our people won't be as scattered as they are now. But, for now, thanks again for making it possible for us to have the opportunity to return and be welcomed. Hope to see you next year.

Sincerely,

Frances Lewis

P.S. A special Thank you to our Chairman, Rocky Barrett and all those who work with him. I am very proud of the standing our reservation and people have achieved through their hard work. We are blessed to have them. To really appreciate them, you only have to listen to the news and hear the trials that other tribes less fortunate are experiencing.

Dear Linda,

I'm sure you've already heard this a few times, but it bears repeating. As a visitor from another state, I was very impressed by how well the Festival was organized and what a great job the staff and employees did to make it such a success!

From you and Rocky and the rest of the administration team to the teenagers who smiled as they kept the grounds cleaned up, it was a first-rate event. I really enjoyed talking to people from all over the country.

And, a personal thanks to you for all your hard work on the art contest and making me feel so special! You have great attention to details. You should all feel very good about it and I hope you recover soon from all the long hours of work. You probably got sunburned at the basketball contest!

The hand games were really fun, and on Sunday, I really enjoyed the tour of Sacred Heart Mission. I appreciate all your hard work.

Thanks again ... I will be back in contact with you this summer about suggestions for the art contest.

Sincerely,

Donna Barnard

Dear Business Committee Members:

Thank you for all the time, planning and preparation for the Potawatomi Festival.

My family and I felt welcome, comfortable, secure, and entertained. We thought that it was good that it was a Potawatomi celebration.

Congratulations to all on a job well done.

Best Wishes,

Pauline Shearer

Dear How Ni Kan,

This June I came to Oklahoma from Georgia to attend the Pow Wow. I had the pleasure to attend with my sister and her family, my parents, Buddy Vandagriff (my grandfather) and Rilda Vandagriff, his wife of 69 years.

We spent the time with our extended family and rejoined other members of the Burnett Family. This letter, however, is about a few quiet moments during our three day reunion. We were all sitting in my grandmother's back yard when I said I was going to wander down the alley. It's in an old neighborhood and has masses of flowers and "yard plants" that have escaped from the yards on either side.

Mama jumped up and got her cane saying she wanted to go. My 15-year-old niece, Dana, came along also. Right away Mama and I saw Lamb's Quarters. Mama is particularly fond of these wild greens so we three went prowling down the alley looking for them. More often than not it was my grandmother with her 88-year-old eyes who spotted them first.

"Look here, Becky, is a big bunch. Dana, get that one, honey, behind that bush there." We carried home two big armloads. I thought to myself, here are four generations of American Indian women collecting the weeds that God just tosses down here for us. Spending time talking, walking, looking, cleaning, and cooking them. Enjoying the eating of them almost as much as the gathering.

Thank you for letting me share this.

**Becky Smith
Adairsville, GA**

Dear Mary Farrell & Staff members,

I have received your copy of the How Ni Kan as requested, and I thank you so much for your quick response. I now have two as the regular mailing copy came in.

I really enjoyed the Heritage Festival and it was outstanding. I will cherish the memories of all of you there that have dedicated your huge amount of time for all of our family members. Thousands of us!

Love to all,

Audrey L. Kambiss

Your thoughtfulness meant so much. Thanks so much for your generous contribution to my further education. I appreciate it very much.

Sincerely,

Pat Dawson

Dear Mrs. Farrell,

Please extend my appreciation to the Scholarship Committee and housing allowances for my children, Nicholas and Amy Upton. Two children in college at once is a tremendous financial burden, but the scholarship awards helped so much. Sincerely,

Carolyn Upton

Dear Mrs. Farrell and the Citizen Potawatomi Scholarship Foundation,

I want to thank you very much for approving me for your scholarship of \$300 and \$450 housing. This is a tremendous help to me and my parents. Thank you very much. I'm proud to be apart of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

Sincerely,

Dana E. Giboney

Dear Scholarship Committee:

I would like to take a moment to thank you and my tribe for the scholarship that you provided for my studies at Northeastern State University, Fall 1999 semester. Carrying fourteen college credit hours, working 37 hours, and managing my home and family is a little stressful at times, but the encouragement and support from our people helps so much as I pursue my degree in Special Education.

Sincerely,

Darlene Goldsmith

CPN employees get steer's eye view in charity race

(Editor's note: Citizen Potawatomi Nation members, officials, and employees are an active part of the Shawnee community. Sometimes that commitment to service causes them to place their dignity at risk.)

On October 28, employees Pam Smith and Michael Dodson mounted Longhorn Steers for a race that was part of the annual International Texas Longhorn Association convention in Shawnee.

Their participation helped raise several hundred dollars for the American Cancer Society. CPN Vice Chairman Linda Capps had been scheduled to ride. However, her duty to attend a meeting of the First National Bank board of directors forced her to cancel. Vice Chairman Capps did make a generous personal donation to the American Cancer Society.

Michael Dodson was asked to prepare a first-person account of his ride for the *Shawnee News-Star*. It was published on the front page of the October 29 edition.)

Sometimes, even a seat belt doesn't provide enough protection. When one's seat — a saddle in this instance — creeps down the Longhorn's side, it's better to not be securely fastened in, or on.

Yes ... in the Celebrity Longhorn Race at the International Texas Longhorn Association convention, I served as comic relief. I accomplished the unthinkable. Each of the other celebrities managed to remain seated for the required two laps.

Heading down the backstretch on lap two, the cinch strap on my saddle loosened itself. I later learned that was likely the result of El Diablo's loose skin. Much to the audience's delight, I was quickly sprawled on the ground — any shred of dignity I still possessed evaporated forever.

Actually, that solved a thorny dilemma. From before I mounted El Diablo (for lack of my beast's actual name), I had been worried about how I would return to Terra Firma.

Thus, the unscheduled dismount was a blessing in disguise.

I had known from the instant that heat number one kicked into gear, with Sen. Dick Wilkerson and his steed off like the wind, (well, maybe a strong breeze) that I had no intention of trying to actually win the race.

Survival was the name of the game. That I did accomplish, along with having a downright great time.

I relish new experiences, doing things that most other people have no desire to try. I had missed a scheduled ride on a circus elephant back in 1985 because I could not get out of hosting a radio talk show. I regretted that.

When Karen Lee of the Shawnee Convention and Tourism Bureau called with the invite to race on a Longhorn, there was no need to think past my immediate acceptance. I was in and eagerly awaiting my chance.

Milling around the apparently docile steers for a half-hour before race time fed my confidence.

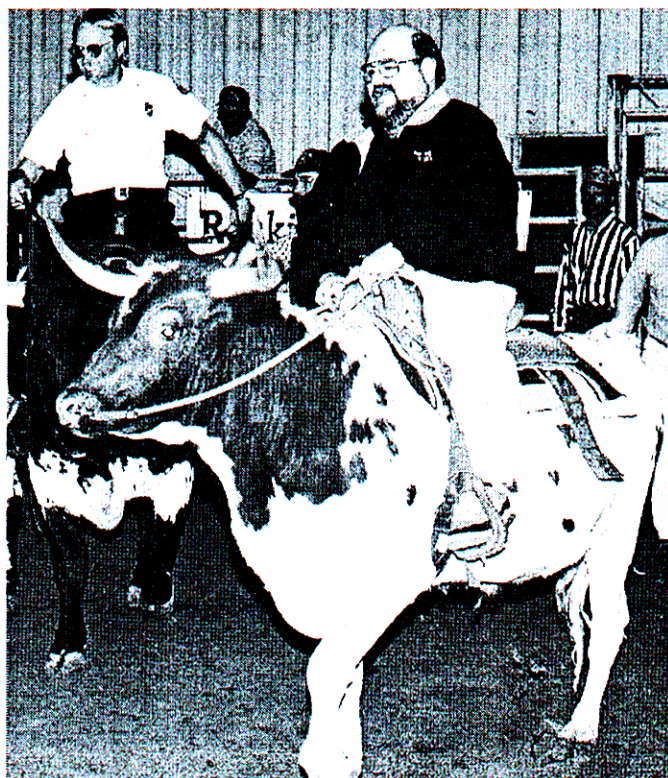
The first bit of trepidation appeared when my saddle was entirely too mobile on El Diablo's back. When I proved to myself that 32 years of steering a car meant nothing astride a ton of Longhorn, the last vestige of my self-confidence vanished.

From that point until my unceremonious four-point landing a couple of minutes later, it was heart-in-the-throat time.

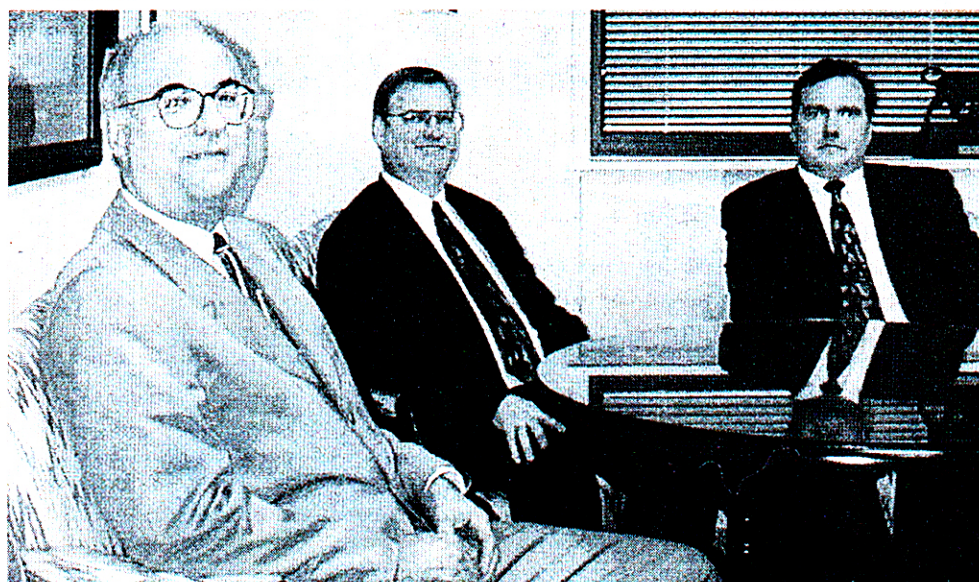
The only thing really wounded is my dignity. Hey, I actually injured myself worse just walking a couple of weeks ago. Ask my lovely wife Susan, who nursed me back to health.

The bottom line: I would do it again, in a heartbeat. We had fun. We raised several hundred dollars for a very good cause. And, I helped an arena (nearly) full of great people enjoy a hearty laugh.

One thing, though. The next time I do this, I'm gonna crawl under that Longhorn's belly and make double sure the cinch strap is so tight it gives him a tummy ache. Heck, I might even have some Velcro handy.



Citizen Potawatomi Nation Public Information Director Michael Dodson Before The Fall



Larry Briggs, Paul McIntire, Steve Martin

Bank is safest place for money on first day of the new year

"The safest place to have your money, come January 1, 2000, is in a bank." With those words, Larry Briggs, First National Bank President, opened a recent First National seminar on the Y2K computer situation.

Briggs assured the audience that his and virtually all other banks in the United States are ready to move into next year with no difficulty from the progression to a year ending in double zeroes. "We started working on this two-and-one-half years ago," Briggs explained. "We've spent \$50 to \$60 thousand to ensure that we are Y2K-compliant."

Briggs pointed out that the bank's normal computer upgrade schedule was a positive factor. "About every three years, they become obsolete." He said. "And, as we purchased faster, more powerful computers and software, we ensured that both the hardware and software are Y2K-compliant."

"Our advice to our customers on dealing with cash needs for the New Year's holiday weekend is to deal with it as you would any normal, holiday weekend," Briggs said. "You should have enough cash on hand to take care of holiday cash-spending needs, but no more."

"We feel very, very confident about the position that First National Bank and almost all other financial institutions are in," Briggs said. "99.7% of U.S. banks are ready to move into the year 2000 with no problems. There are about ten financial institutions that, according to regulators, are not yet ready."

First National Bank is backing Briggs' confidence about Y2K-compliance with action. "For those customers who have government checks electronically deposited directly into their First National accounts, we will credit the normal deposit to your account on the day in late December or early January on which it normally arrives — whether it's here that day or not."

If for some reason government computers experience Y2K-related glitches, Briggs said, "if you bank here, we will make sure that the money is available to you as a First National Bank account holder."

Paul McIntire, vice president and cashier, was in charge of the Y2K Readiness Project for First National Bank. "We have gone through extensive testing," McIntire said.

"We developed our own specific testing plan and strategies," McIntire explained. "We set our computers' calendars for various dates, including September 9, 1999 (9/9/99), December 31, 1999, January 1, 2000, and February 29, 2000. We experienced no problems as the computers moved to the next day's date while performing normal functions."

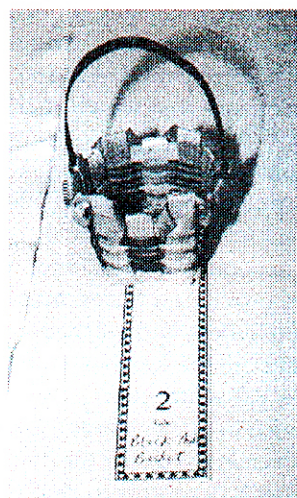
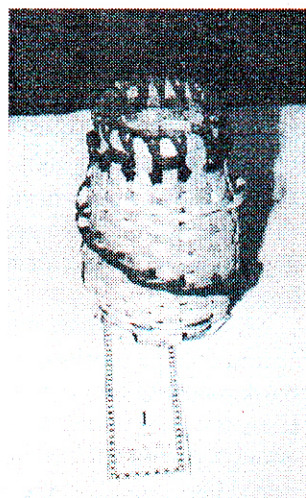
McIntire said that, acting from an abundance of caution, First National Bank has obtained a generator. "In our tests, the generator provided more than enough power for essential First National Bank functions."

First National has also adopted a Contingency Resumption Plan. It outlines the steps the bank will follow in the unlikely event that various computer systems do not operate properly, for whatever reasons, on January 3, 2000 — the first banking day of 2000.

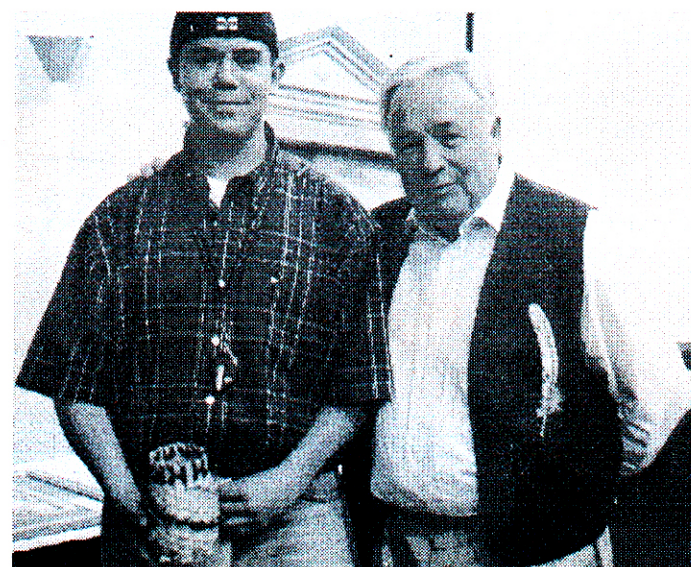
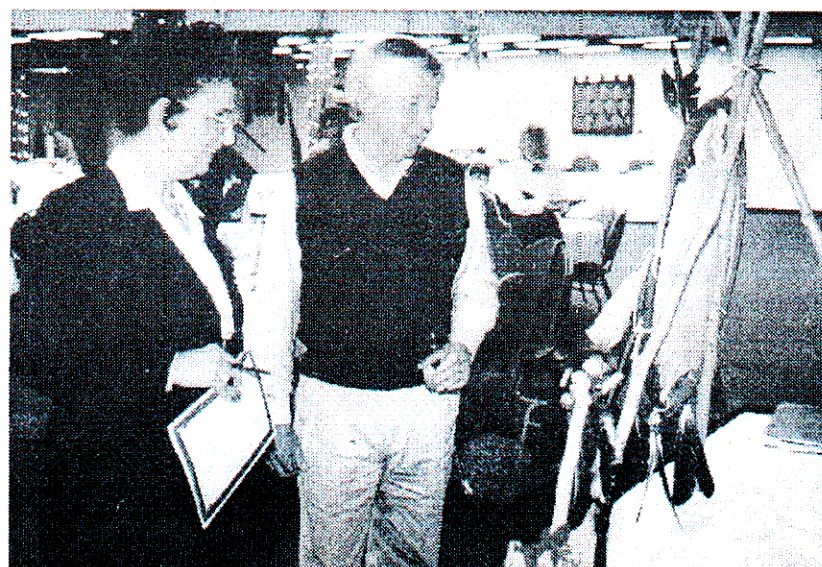
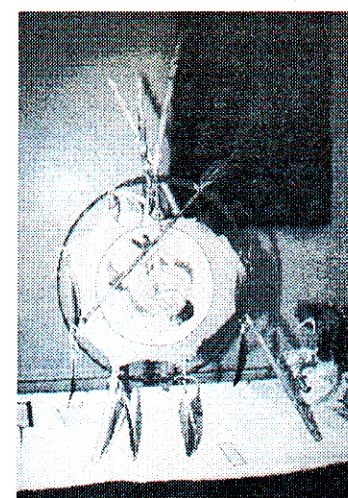
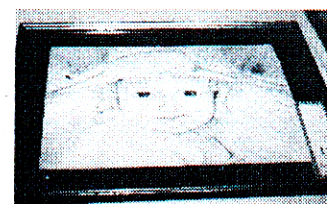
It's Your Newspaper!

The HowNiKan welcomes contributions from tribal members, especially stories of their accomplishments. Please send information and photographs to tribal headquarters. Deadline is the 5th of the month.

Denver Regional Sept. 2



Vice Chairman Linda Capps displays a historic buckskin dress while Dot Spencer (First Place) and Marlene Perez (Second Place) display the "Deerskin Vest" and painting "Grandma's Pride" that earned them top finishes in the Denver Region Contest. Below Right, John Gibson poses with Bob Trousdale, CPN Deputy Administrator, and the 'Black Ash Basket' that earned John third place in the Art Contest.



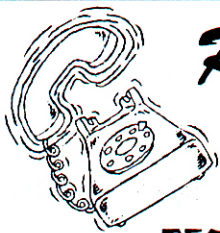
Council Meeting

5, 1999



Upper left: Chairman Barrett honors the wisest tribal member present for the meeting, Sam McCollum, 79, of Arvada, Colorado. At right is Megan Bradfield, 2, the youngest enrolled tribal member present. At top right, Business Committee members J.P. Motley and Hilton Melot and Secretary-Treasurer Bruno take a break from Denver Regional meeting activities to pose with a young tribal member. Below left, tribal members listen to reports from visiting officials, and below right, Chairman Barrett thanks Penny Bishop for her faithful service as Regional Representative. This meeting was her final duty.





Regional Office Directory

REGION 1 - OREGON/IDAHO

REGION 2 - WASHINGTON

(INCLUDES ALASKA & HAWAII)

Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste

Box 346, 525 Ivy Ave., Gervais, OR 97026
Local (503) 792-3744 • FAX (503) 792-3744
Toll-Free (800) 522-3744
e-mail: Region01@Potawatomi.org

REGION 3 - NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jennifer J. Porter

5033 Vannoy Ave., Castro Valley, CA 94546
Local (510) 886-4195 • Toll-Free (800) 874-8585
e-mail: Region03@Potawatomi.org

REGION 4 - SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jeremy Bertrand Finch

203 Bellefontaine St., Pasadena, CA 91105-2921
Local (626) 796-2008 • Toll-Free (800) 432-2008
e-mail: Region04@Potawatomi.org

REGION 5 - SOUTHWEST

(INCLUDES ARIZONA & WESTERN NEW MEXICO)

Gene Lambert-Gist

20415 N. 29th St., Phoenix, AZ 85024
Local (480) 668-0509
Toll-Free (800) 452-8966
e-mail: Region05@Potawatomi.org

REGION 6 - COLORADO

(INCLUDES MONTANA, UTAH, WYOMING,
WESTERN NEBRASKA, WESTERN KANSAS)

Penny Bishop

90 Meade Lane, Englewood, CO 80110
Local (303) 761-7021 • FAX (303) 761-1660
Toll-Free (800) 531-1140
e-mail: Region06@Potawatomi.org

REGION 7 - NORTHERN TEXAS

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEW MEXICO)

Marjorie Hobdy

3132 Kathy Lane, Irving, TX 75060
Local (972) 790-3075 • Toll-Free (800) 742-3075
e-mail: Region07@Potawatomi.org

REGION 8 - SOUTHERN TEXAS

Lu Ellis

26231 Huffsmith-Conroe Rd., Magnolia, TX 77355
Local (281) 356-7957 • Toll-Free (800) 272-7957
e-mail: Region08@Potawatomi.org

REGION 9 - MIDWEST

(INCLUDES EASTERN NEBRASKA & EASTERN KANSAS)

12516 Askew Dr., Grandview, MO 64030
Local (816) 761-2333 • Toll-Free (800) 325-6639
e-mail: Region09@Potawatomi.org

REGIONAL REPORTS

Northern California

Bosho, Niconi,

Let me greet you with hopes for your good health and well-being. We have had a tough summer with the loss of my mother-in-law. I would not normally mention this, but it is such an eye opener to have known and loved someone who lived her life so well.

She cared for everyone and was fair-minded. She was a spiritual person who had good health habits and a zest for living.

Complications from a brain tumor operation took her from us. So I guess what I want to share is, we take so much for granted in our little lives that when you see someone like this go, you think among other things, now what do I want to accomplish and do with the rest of my life?

If I have 20 years or 10 years (or less) of life left, what to do? What's important? It's something to ponder, eh?

Now on to other things ... our Regional Meeting will be on Saturday, March 4, 2000. More information will be forthcoming, but I would really like some input on what you might

like to see at our meeting.

If you've been to one before, you know the format as it has been, so your ideas would be much appreciated. If you haven't been to a meeting, please feel free to let me know what you are interested in as well. Also, please send any change of addresses, names, etc., to me or to Tribal Rolls in Shawnee so you'll be up to date on what's happening.

Merritt College in Oakland is a community college with a special program for Native American students. It's called "Destination Success" It's a community outreach program to help students with education needs. The contact is Frank Corral, Apache/Otomi Indian, who is in a direct working relationship with Cal Berkeley and San Francisco State University.

Mr. Corral mentioned that you do not need a GED or high school diploma to attend Merritt or to be a member of the outreach program. He also services middle schools, high schools, and Indian community agencies in the East Bay.

His number is 510-436-2460.

I'm sure there are other programs like this in other communities. If you have needs in this area, be sure to check out the possibilities.

A new satellite counseling clinic in East San Jose has opened at St. Philips Church, 5038 Hyland Ave., San Jose, CA, 408-445-3400, ext. 240. I receive flyers from time to time about these things. If you receive information about special programs or events that will impact tribal members from the Bay Area or from other parts of Northern California, including Central California, and Northern Nevada, please send them to me and I will share them in my reports. I also use this information when a tribal member calls seeking help, so I appreciate being informed.

Well, that's my news for this report. I'll close with just a reminder to honor, respect, and cherish our elders. We have much to learn and they can teach us so much — listen to their stories.

bamamine'

— Jennifer J. Porter

North Texas

Greetings,

Here in North-central Texas, we really had a good summer until the end of July. August was terrible.

You have all received your July HowNiKan by now, with all the great pictures taken during the Heritage Festival. There were many reports in this edition telling of the events that made up the weekend. By all accounts, the Festival was a success. I know the members from my region had a good time and I'm really pleased with their participation and accomplishments.

And, the report I received on my cholesterol was not too bad. My hearing test came out okay, so I can't claim I do not hear what people are saying. My husband needs a re-check, so I guess that he can still claim that he did not hear me. The people in the clinic were outstanding.

Donna Barnard, Grand Prize Art Winner, and I planned to go

to the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations hosted by the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians in Dowagiac, Michigan. The chartered bus was canceled because not enough people made reservations. I can understand that it is hard for people to clear their calendar for the time it would have taken for the trip. But, I hope the trip works out for next year as Donna and I were disappointed we did not get to go. And, I am eager to hear the report about the meeting.

Our regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, November 13, 1999. The time will be about the same and the location is still to be determined. We will try to get this information to you as soon as possible. I do hope you will be able to attend.

I realize how busy everyone is with so much going on in the metroplex, but I do hope you

will be able to set aside part of your Saturday to be there even if you cannot stay through the entire meeting. The information presented by our Business Committee is always welcome.

November, American Indian History month, is here and numerous activities are planned in this area. One was the American Indian Chamber of Commerce Banquet on Wednesday, November 3, 1999. Check your local paper for listings of events.

With school back in session, I hope everyone is settling back into a regular routine. I still work temporary at my old job and I, for one, am glad the vacations are finished. I have found that a little work goes a long way now that I am retired. Hope all is well with you and yours. Give me a call if I can be of help.

— Marj Hobdy

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation is divided into different "Regional Offices" to help cover the extended membership across the nation. Originally labeled merely by region names, regional boundaries were established in late 1997 using the US Postal Service "3 digit" Zip code areas. Region '0' is generally considered Oklahoma while the other states that are not numbered currently do not have an official "Region" designator.

REGIONAL REPORTS

Southern California

Bourzho Nikani!

Greetings from Pasadena!

As many of you know, I have transitioned out of the entertainment industry and have been teaching public high school since September of '98. To borrow from the Peace Corps ad copy, it has turned out to be the toughest job I've ever loved.

One of the first things I noticed was that there are no social organizations on our campuses that address the concerns of our Native American students and the challenges they face today. Being Indian out here in Southern California tends to mean that if you are a "skin," you're grouped in with the Hispanic students. There's nothing wrong with those proud cultures — it's just that we're not Hispanic. And, of course, if you're light like me, you're just another white guy with long hair and a lot of funny bumper stickers.

Well, I couldn't let that situation

persist, so I've started an organization on the campus where I teach, Pasadena High School. I have hopes that, if it is successful and popular, it will spread across secondary campuses throughout the region.

It's called NANA, the Native American Nations Association. I am including the main part of the charter for your consideration and input.

Native American Nations Association

- Is dedicated to the preservation of Native American Indian culture and life-ways through understanding, brotherhood, and respect for all indigenous cultural traditions;
- Is open to all students regardless of race, creed, color, tribal affiliation, or cultural origin;
- Focuses on traditional Native American Indian history, values, dance, music, art, crafts, and stories;
- Will teach members how to pow-wow dance and how to assemble their

own dance regalia;

- Will guide Native American Indian students to government and tribal sources of college funding; and,
- Encourages a substance abuse-free lifestyle of honor and self-respect.

The response so far has been very good. I have the requisite 15 students to gain a charter. Our first meeting was Friday, October 1.

Some of the activities I am planning are: a trip to the Southwest Museum (site of several of our Regional Council meetings), local pow wows, hikes to identify and gather herbs and medicines, and a trip to stake out a piece of a local community garden so we can grow some proper corn, beans, and squash.

Some of the students want to make crafts, from beading to shawls to a drum, so we'll be taking on those projects, too.

There is the possibility that the NANA group will provide some volunteers to assist at our next Regional Council meeting, which is scheduled for mid-January. We'll see how that works out ...

In the meantime, the boys continue to grow big and strong. Caleb has made the dean's list two years running, and Ellis is an exemplary student. Julia is prettier, taller, and more fun to be with

every day. Mardesia continues to be my joy and my best friend.

So hey! Let me know if you have any suggestions for the next Regional Council meeting. Should we go back to the little community center where we had it last time, or should we find another place? Do you want our Potawatomi dancer, Gary Sulcer to come back? If I get a drum to be there, will any of you dance? And, how about the food? Do you think the kids would sit still for a storyteller? Absent your input, I'll make the decisions, but I'd sure like to hear your opinions.

And by the way, I don't know if the editorial staff has updated the regional office listings lately, but FYI, we moved back into the old house about a year ago, and the current address and numbers of the Southern California Regional Office are:

203 Bellefontaine Street, Pasadena CA 91105-2921; 800-432-2008 long distance, 626-796-2008 local. The e-mail address is region04@potawatomi.org

I have listings of many services in the area, so get in touch!

Be well, blessings on your families, and

Bama mine',

— Jeremy Bertrand Finch

Southwest

Greetings,

Now, we are in business! Arizona is coming into its season. People are arriving from around the world to enjoy all the wonders of the beautiful Southwestern Region. We are known for all the Native American cultures here, and are held in high regard.

There are Pimas, Navajo, Gila, and, let's not forget, the Potawatomis. We, too, are making our mark here in business and community organizations.

When I walk into or talk to anyone from the BIA, Native American hospital, community colleges and universities, arts fields, etc., there is always a Potawatomi on board somewhere. I am always delighted by and proud of our contributions.

Get ready now for all the excitement of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation gathering on February 5, 2000 — the Southwestern Region Millennium Meeting. Get out your regalia, gather up your families, prepare your art medium for the art contests, and reunite with friends and relatives.

Chairman Barrett will fill us in on what's going on around the Nation, what and how we are doing in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and, as always, contribute fabulous stories of our heritage. There will be games for the children, food, and (hopefully) the usual beautiful weather.

This is your opportunity to personally meet the leaders of our grand Nation. We're bringing in a new millennium with continued growth in exciting

times.

So, plan now, don't be left out.

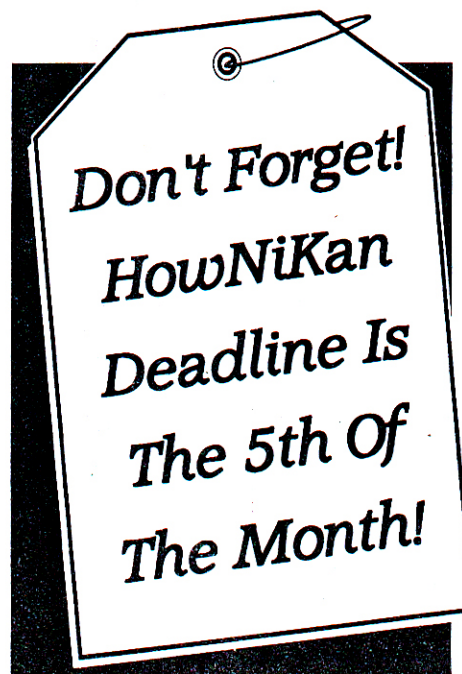
The new CPN telephone numbers are finally here. They are: 480-668-0509 locally and 800-452-8966. These are the official numbers now, not the temporary numbers from before.

Philonise Williams says, "Hello," to all. She is looking forward to meeting old and new friends at the gathering. I have been so fortunate to have her to learn from.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

All the good things life has to offer,

— Gene Lambert-Gist



MULTI-REGIONAL ART COMPETITIONS 1999-2000

GRAND PRIZE ART COMPETITION

\$150 First Prize • \$100 Second Prize • \$50 Third Prize

- All enrolled Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Members are eligible to enter the Multi-Regional Art Competitions.
- Entries must be the work of the artist without assistance and must have been completed within two years of the Art Competition date.
- Eligible artists must submit their art in the region in which they reside. If an artist fails to submit his art in the region in which he resides, he is not eligible to enter any other Multi-Regional Art Competition.
- Each artist is limited to, but not required to submit, three (3) entries.
- Entries must be submitted to the regional director for display at the regional meeting.
- No entry fee or age requirements are placed on the artists. Artists of all ages are encouraged to enter the art competitions.
- Only one prize will be paid to each contestant. A contestant who wins more than one prize will be awarded the higher of the prizes.
- Artists who win first, second, or third prize, at any Multi-Regional Art Competition may advance their winning piece(s) of art to the Grand Prize Art Competition to be held in June.

**Painting * Photography * Prints * Sculpture
Beadwork * Jewelry * Pottery * Fabric Art**

For more information contact: Dennette Brand-Bare at 1-800-880-9880 or Citizen Potawatomi Nation Art Competition, 1601 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., Shawnee, OK 74801, or by e-mail at DBrand@Potawatomi.org

Citizen Potawatomi Housing Authority

Need a Home NOW?

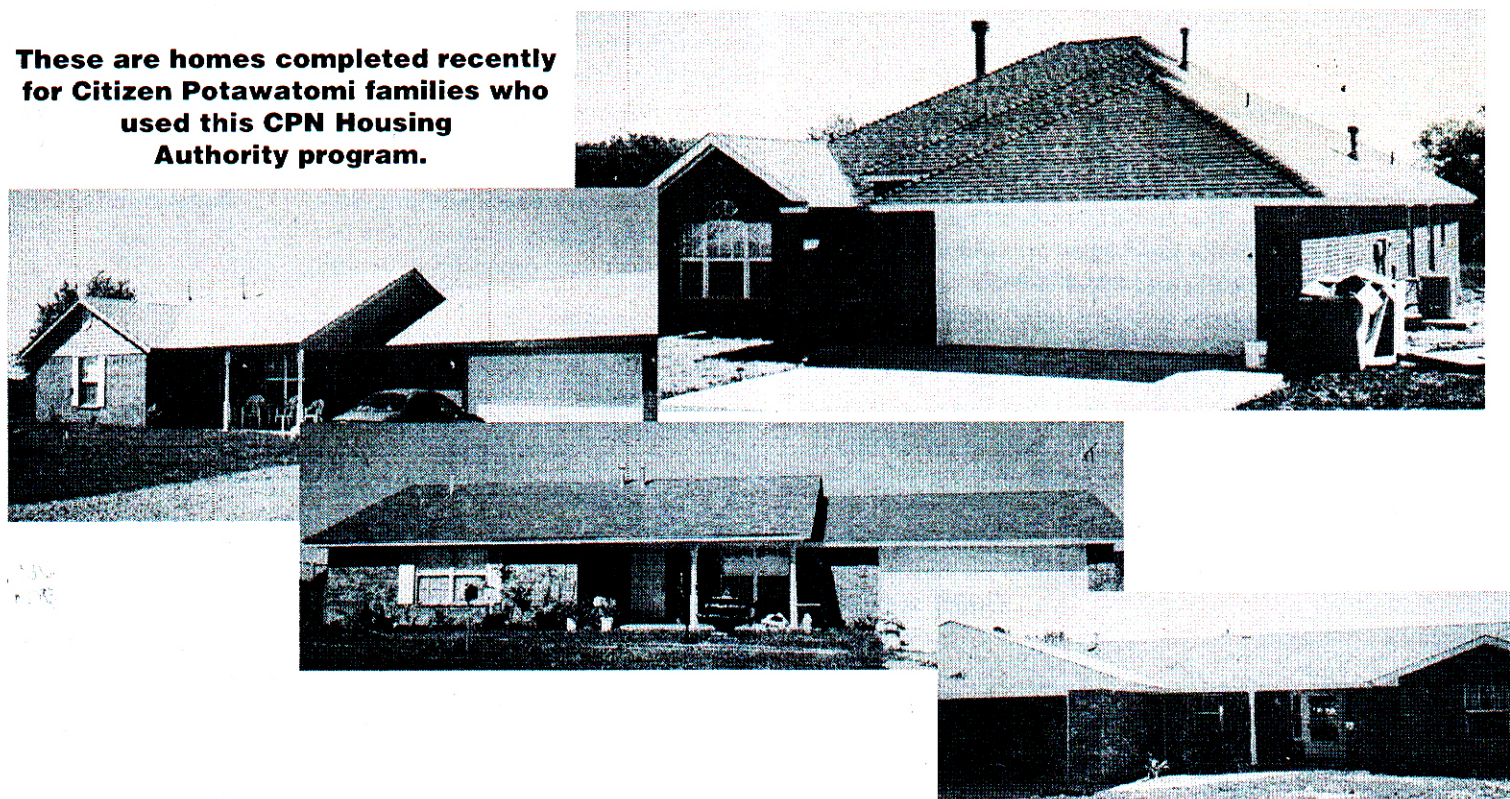
Up to \$37,300 — **FREE** — toward purchase of your home if you qualify!
The CPN Housing Authority has 17 new-home mortgages that GIVE you up to 50% of the price of your new home if you meet three requirements.

YES! It is as easy as 1-2-3!!

To qualify, you must....

1. Meet income guidelines (Call us)
2. Have good credit with at least two years on your present job or in the same line of work
3. Own your own city lot with utilities or own 1 1/4 acres of farm land in the tribal jurisdiction

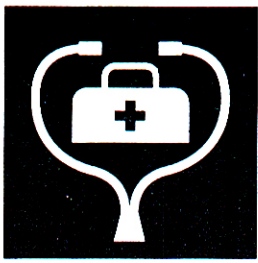
**These are homes completed recently
for Citizen Potawatomi families who
used this CPN Housing
Authority program.**



***Young married couples! Retired couples! Big families (Need four bedrooms?)
Call your housing authority NOW!***

***We can help you get a new job and a new home!!
Call us!! Only 17 families will get this wonderful opportunity!
Don't let this ship sail without being on board!!!***

Call Sherry Byers at 405-878-4819 or 800-880-9880.



HEALTH MATTERS

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION HEALTH CLINIC



Tips On Treating Head Lice Problems

The Facts About Head Lice

Approximately 10 million Americans are infested with head lice each year, according to officials at the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Head lice are very easy to get and can occur in any family. They are not associated with cleanliness or lack of it.

While head lice are a nuisance, they do not carry diseases. The good news is that you can get rid of this often-persistent pest with proper treatment of the infested person's hair and home environment.

Pre-school and elementary age children are infested most often. They most commonly get lice from contact with infested family members or friends.

Lice do not fly, and transmission usually occurs through direct or indirect contact. Direct transmission can occur when articles of clothing such as ribbons, combs, brushes, hats, scarves, coats, or sports helmets are shared. Indirect transmission can occur if a child shares beds and pillows with an infested person.

Most often, the failure of lice-killing shampoos has been traced to people's not using them correctly. Some steps that are frequently not followed are: washing the hair first with a shampoo that does not contain an added conditioner or creme rinse and treating the hair in sections.

To treat head lice successfully, it is very important to carefully read and follow all of the instructions to the letter. The time-consuming process of removing all nits and cleaning the home and car is just as important as treating the hair to kill head lice.

There is a growing level of concern that repeated applications of lice-killing shampoos are making head lice resistant to them; they will then no longer work. To combat this problem, many families are finding success in using old "folk remedies" to kill head lice.

Home remedies, such as using petroleum jelly, olive oil, or mayonnaise on the hair and wearing a shower cap overnight, operate on the idea that these substances cut off air to the lice, so that they suffocate and die. Most of these home remedies have not been scientifically tested or



Special Comb Helps

proven.

Once your family is lice-free, prevention is important to make sure you stay that way. Educate everyone in the family to never share brushes, combs, hats, scarves, ribbons, or other head coverings.

Additionally, parents are encouraged to perform frequent head checks at home, so that infestations can be caught early when they are easier to eliminate.

For more information on head lice and how to treat it, contact the public health department at the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Health Complex 405-273-5236.

NPA's 10 Tips for Manual Lice Removal

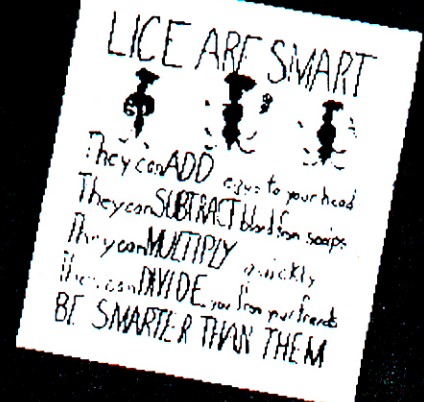
1. Work under a good light, such as the natural sunlight from sitting by a window or going outdoors. A strong lamp can also be used. If eyesight is a problem, have a magnifying glass on hand.
2. Use a grooming comb or hairbrush to remove tangles.
3. Divide the hair in sections and fasten off the hair that is not being worked on.
4. Use a comb to detect if lice and nits are present.
5. Using the comb, go through the section from the scalp to the end of the hair. Dip the comb into a cup of water or use a paper towel to remove any lice, nits, or debris from the comb between passings.
6. Sift through that same section of hair and look for attached nits (lice eggs) and live lice. Nits are always oval-shaped and usually grayish-white although they can vary in color. Nits are generally laid close to the scalp but can be found anywhere on the hair shaft.
7. Move on to the next section until all sections are completed.

8. It can be helpful to team up (at least two people) on the head to search specifically for any live lice. They move quickly and can be caught with the comb, tweezers, your fingernails or "sticking" them with tape that you can double side on your finger. To clean the comb, use an old toothbrush, fingernail brush, wire brush or unwaxed dental floss to clear the teeth.
9. Even under the best of conditions, a few lice or nits might be missed. Use the comb to screen the infested person every day and regularly thereafter. Seeing a nit or two the next day does not necessarily mean re-infestation.

However, be sure to remove them immediately. Being consistent and diligent about screening and manual removal will go a long way toward controlling the problem.

10. If additional nits (at least 3-5 per day) are discovered, this may signal that live lice may be on the head. Another thorough manual search is recommended at that time. Remember also that each day is a new day for the risk of a new infestation. Daily screening is vital for anything that may have been missed, but also for identifying a new infestation as early as possible.

Every month is head lice prevention month.



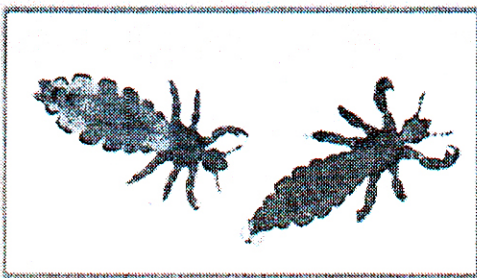
But SEPTEMBER is the month to ENTER the NPA's POSTER CONTEST

The Head Lice Prevention Poster Contest is co-sponsored by the The National Pediculosis Association® and School Health® Corporation on behalf of the NPA's ALL OUT COMB OUT CAMPAIGN.

www.headlice.org

P.O. Box 610189, Newton, MA. 02461 - (781)449-NITS

©NPA, 1999



Education conference includes youth activities

Continued from page 1

can," Brown said. "They want a lawyer who understands them and their culture."

Brown also discussed the need for Native Americans to become FBI agents and talked about the wealth of financial assistance opportunities that are available to aspiring law school students who search diligently.

Deidre Lujan, a recent law school graduate who is working in the Oklahoma County Public Defenders Office, focused on the need for more Native American lawyers.

"We encounter a lot of Native American clients who don't understand the legal system, don't understand what is happening to them," Lujan explained. "The need (for more Indian lawyers) is there to educate Native Americans before they get into trouble."

For Citizen Potawatomi Nation Education Department employee Patsy Cooper, the NIEA Convention began on the morning of Sunday, October 17. As a conference volunteer, Cooper helped ensure that the Sunday fun run/walk happened smoothly.

"The Convention's Youth Committee had prepared for this big event for several months," Cooper told the *HowNiKan*. "The Youth Committee prepared 400 registration packets for the youth. More than 600 Indian young people from across the U.S. attended the conference."

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation donated 500 rulers and 1000 pencils for the packets. The packets also included: NIEA T-shirts, an NIEA schedule, book markers donated by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, information about the Un. of Colorado, a flyer about the upcoming Career Day at the Un. of Central Oklahoma in Edmond on Dec. 3, highlighters, pens, and key-chains.

"Sunday also included several sporting activities for the youth," Cooper said. "A 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament was held all morning, followed by a Hoop Challenge in the afternoon. There was also a sports clinic for all ages. During this time, the Student Caucus was also taking place."

Several other youth activities took place throughout the conference. These included: a Spelling Bee, the Math Olympics, Student Workshops, a

Student Oratory Contest, Math Competition, the Challenge Bowl, Student Forums, and a Job/Career Fair.

On Monday morning at the Student Brunch, Oklahoma Baptist University track athlete Chance Rush delivered a motivational speech.

There was a Citizen Potawatomi tribal member among the NIEA Convention winners. Andrew Mock of Edmond, Oklahoma was a member of the 3-on-3 basketball team that earned the First Place trophy in the competition for teams comprised of 12-year-old athletes. Mock also placed second in the Math Olympics. Andrew's mother is Julie Mock of Edmond, Oklahoma.

"The Wrap-Up Session began with a prayer song from the young boys drum group from Pawnee, Oklahoma," Cooper said. "This was followed by a march and salute from the Honor Guard from Riverside Indian School." Wrap-Up Session speakers were Misti Wind, Miss Indian Oklahoma, and Howard Rainer from Northern Montana, who delivered a powerful motivational speech to the youth.

Cooper said, "We were very fortunate to have received several raffle items, which included a beautiful saddle blanket, and two Pendelton backpacks from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation Business Committee and Museum."

Other raffle items included a large print from Charles Chapman and the Pawnee Nation and several NIEA items, such as T-shirts and framed posters.

Ted Moore, education director for the Osage Nation of Oklahoma, advocated using art to help students develop self-esteem. "Design your project so students will have a successful outcome," Moore advised. "Indian young people often have difficulty with other parts of the curriculum."

Moore believes that the self-confidence Native American students develop through a successful art project will help them perform well in other courses. The art projects also help students develop the valuable skill of focusing on a project. "When you focus, you will achieve and it's going to be a quality project," he said.

Moore said that art can also serve as an avenue for taking a broader image of Native Americans into a classroom. And, he would like to see an emphasis on that area. "They need to focus, in a conference, on issues like teaching culture through the arts," Moore said.

The NIEA convention also offered culture and entertainment opportunities. Participants were treated to music from Darryl Tonemah (Kiowa/Tuscarora), who is preparing to release his third album of pop-inflected music, Seminole Chief Jim Billie with his Swamp Country, and Country music star John Anderson.

Actor Wes Studi performed the lead in a presentation of "Black Elk Speaks" and the annual NIEA convention Pow Wow was a success.



From The Chairman

By John A. "Rocky" Barrett

Bozhoo Nicon, Hau Nishnabe,

The new program for the Regional Council Meetings was tried out on the Dallas and Denver Regions this fall. At your request, explanations and demonstrations of some of the old Potawatomi religious practices were given. Some of the old legends were told. Along with the new film presentations and guest speakers, the next year's meetings should be well worth your time. We will also be offering some direct services at the meetings next spring. Don't miss it!

On behalf of the Business Committee please let me express my appreciation for the hundreds of you who have written to express your approval of the Heritage Festival. It is gratifying to know that so many of you approve of the way the Nation is finally starting some real Citizen Potawatomi traditions, not copying some intertribal powwow.

Like any group of people, however, there are always those who resist change, even if it is for the better. Probably every tribe in the United States has at one time had a challenge from a group of its members that the tribal government currently in office wasn't traditional and should, therefore, be replaced by those who are self-proclaimed traditionals. This kind of group has some common characteristics no matter what tribe they are from. Usually, some of them have let their hair grow out, or at least wear a bandanna while it is growing. Most of them claim mystical powers or experiences from Indian spirits.

The majority of them has been to a ceremony recently and wear a medicine bag and claim some degree of moral superiority over those of us who are Christians. Usually they say that the current tribal leadership has forgotten tradition and thinks only about business. Of course they live in a house that the tribe's business got them. Usually their well and septic tank came from the tribe. They usually use the tribe's clinic and job program and welfare assistance.

The most common characteristic of all, however, is that their leadership is always someone who could not get elected to tribal office on his or her own merits. Many times it is a former elected official or discharged and disgruntled former employee who wants back in. If they can't get in, they will try to start their own tribe, claiming to be the real Potawatomi. Please beware of these kinds of people. In one of the best known Potawatomi legends about the Eagle and the role he would play in our history, recall that one of the reasons the Creator said he was going to destroy the Earth again in four days was the evil behavior of men. One of the evils he cited was using religion for politics.

I respect those who follow the old Potawatomi religious ways just as I respect anyone's religion that does not impose or try to impose on others. I believe in the use of Potawatomi ceremony in my Christian prayers for my family and at Tribal Council as a way of remembering and learning from our past. I also believe there are real traditional Potawatomi people who sincerely believe and practice the old ways. You can tell the real ones by the fact that they do not wear their beliefs like a new hat for others to admire. They do not preach that their religious beliefs make them superior to others or qualify them for tribal office. Their beliefs are between them and their Creator, not for political gain.

We are close to completing the purchase of the 1100+ acres of land surrounding the present tribal lands. This acquisition will assure that future generations of Citizen Potawatomi will have the land base for growth. With the present anti-Indian behavior of most of the Oklahoma delegation to United States Congress causing us concern for the future, we felt that it was critical to make this purchase now. We had even more concern over the announcements of Republican presidential candidate George Bush that states should have jurisdiction over tribes and their lands. This may be all the land we will ever be able to get. We were able to acquire it in a special purchase arrangement through a trust at our bank that allowed the tribe to buy it over time at a reduced price. When you come for Heritage Festival in June, be sure to take the tour.

Please keep Lu Ellis, our Houston Regional Director, in your prayers for a speedy recovery from surgery on her leg.

Megwetch,

John "Rocky" Barrett



Darryl Tonemah (Kiowa/Tuscarora)
Provided Some Of The Entertainment
At The Conference